

ABSTRACT

A process cartridge including a nonvolatile memory is removably mounted to an image forming apparatus also including a nonvolatile memory. Information representative of the conditions of use of the cartridge, which varies due to repeated operation, is written to both of the two memories. On the start-up of the apparatus, the information is first read out of the memory of the apparatus. Image forming conditions are set up in accordance with the amount of remaining toner and the cumulative number of prints output, which are included in the information, so that operating conditions are optimized in order to quicken image formation. Subsequently, the information is read out of the memory of the process cartridge and compared with the data stored in the memory of the apparatus. If the two data do not compare equal, then the data of the memory of the apparatus is updated in order to set new operating conditions.